



POLICY REGARDING: Non-pressurized Storage Tanks for Individual Water Supplies

BACKGROUND:

The Snohomish Health District (SHD) has longstanding policies in place concerning the potability of individual water supplies. The potability of these water supplies can be compromised if the water system is not constructed and maintained in a sanitary manner. Of specific concern is the possibility of bacteriological or chemical contamination of the water supply by the use of water storage tanks that are improperly constructed or installed.

POLICY:

Generally, the SHD requires that non-pressurized (atmospheric) storage tanks for individual water supplies must be approved for that use by the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF), or constructed entirely of materials that are approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for use with potable water. All tanks must be installed according to the manufacturers' instructions.

SHD will accept concrete water storage tanks that are designed by a professional engineer for that purpose, provided that all synthetic substances used in the manufacturing/construction process are approved for use with potable water by the FDA. The tank must be clearly marked with the name of the manufacturer and include the model name or number that was submitted to SHD with the engineering design.

The use of buried potable water tanks is discouraged. Buried tanks must be justified by a written report specific to that site, stamped by a professional engineer, taking into account setbacks, the high seasonal groundwater conditions at the site, buoyancy, and any other factors that could negatively impact the use of the tank. Buried tanks must have locking lids that are accessible from the ground surface, with markings clearly identifying the contents as potable water.

The on-site sewage system regulations establish setbacks to drinking water suction lines that SHD also applies to buried and partially buried potable water tanks.

The requirements of this policy must be met prior to final approval of on-site sewage disposal system installations and construction clearance approvals when the *Request For Review: Individual Water Supply* was accepted after the effective date of this policy. This policy will be made available to persons requesting a *Request For Report On A Water System* where non-pressurized water storage is identified.

This policy is effective this date.

Robert A. Pekich, Director
Environmental Health Division

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